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The Arab-Israeli Balance of Power in the Mid-1980s

1. Purpose and scope.

a. This estimate is intended to project the balance of power between Israel and the Arab States into the mid-1980's, to determine where probable superiority will lie by 1981 and 1986, assuming no major Arab-Israeli hostilities in the interim.

b. The Arab-Israeli balance of power by the end of the ten-year period will depend as much on politico-economic developments as on the continued arms build-up on each side.

2. Potential armaments growth, including imports, indigenous production, and attrition.

a. Detail will be included in annexed tables and charts.

b. This portion of the estimate will limit itself to assessing the highest and lowest parameters, including nuclear and other unconventional capabilities, postponing decision on the most probable case.

3. Projected domestic and international political, economic, and social factors which may impact on the balance of power.

a. Manpower considerations, particularly the development of military and industrial expertise with the growth of trained pools of technically qualified individuals.

b. The relative importance of economic power and military strength in individual states and regionally.

c. Internal stability and possible ideological or nationalistic divisions as well as the political effects of religious disparities among the Arab states.

d. The developing relationships between major external powers and the Middle East nations.

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4. Most probable relative military strengths for 1981 and 1986.

a. This portion of the estimate will use the considerations developed in part 3 to refine the high and low figures of part 2, to arrive at a reasonable mean.

b. Substantiating detail should probably be carried in an annex.

5. Conclusions on relative national power in 1981 and 1986.

a. Assess the Arab-Israeli balance of power with particular attention to relative strengths and weaknesses.

b. Evaluate the causes of any shifts in the balance of power.

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